

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a1 The coder/decoder (codec) 30, ~~30b~~ 30a, 30b in this embodiment comprise a coder, generating a speech bit stream at around 3.6 kilobits per second, together with a channel coder 30b applying error correcting encoding, to generate an encoded bit stream, and corresponding decoders.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 23, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

a2 As in the preceding embodiment, ~~the between the satellite the interference~~ between the satellite system and the terrestrial system is similarly small because of the blocking and shadowing effects of buildings.